

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/750,380

Examiner

Susanna M. Diaz

Applicant(s)

LOVELAND, JAMES B.

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- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Examiner's Amendment, authorized by Michael Krieger on July 12, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 29 and 34-37.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 April 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Susanne Diaz
SUSANNA M. DIAZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
A.U. 3623

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Krieger on July 12, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please see "Examiner's Amendment" attached at the end of the instant Office action.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1, 2, 29, and 34-37 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record are DeWolf et al. (US 2002/0032626 A1), Brown (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,216), and Piper ("A New Spin on Facility Management"). (Please note that the filing date printed on the DeWolf publication is incorrect. The actual filing date granted to DeWolf is December 18, 2000, as verified by the Examiner.) DeWolf discloses an electronic model and data storage system for storing, maintaining and retrieving information relating to an architectural structure, including blueprints.

DeWolf provides each user with specific access rights that limit what type of data each user can review. The data may be accessed in order to assist in completion of constructions projects, insurance claims, etc. However, DeWolf does not teach or suggest that this data is accessed by a user selecting links located on a three dimensional scaled electronic model of the current state of a specific structure such that specific construction details and materials are directly linked to selection of the actual location of the structure. Brown teaches the display of an electronic model of a house which allows a user to select icons corresponding to different aspects of the house, such as floor plans, alternate views, and textual descriptions of the house; however, these icons are not physically selected by a user selecting links located on a three dimensional scaled electronic model of the current state of a specific structure such that specific construction details and materials are directly linked to selection of the actual location of the structure. Brown's icons are merely provided on the same display along with a textual description or picture of a room or the outside of the house. The icons do not serve as direct links when selecting an actual location of the depicted three dimensional scaled electronic model of the current state of the specific structure. Piper teaches the step of "linking the database to the building drawings [to allow] users to quickly look up information on all hazardous materials in a given portion of a building" (¶ 12); however, Piper does not teach that each user is granted specific access rights or that the data includes all of the specific types of data recited in the claimed invention and used to perform bids.

By allowing a user to access data by selecting links located on a three dimensional scaled electronic model of the current state of a structure such that specific construction details and materials are directly linked to selection of the actual location on the structure, the user's job is facilitated through the ease with which the three dimensional model provides direct access to needed data. The three dimensional model and links made accessible therein more rapidly guide a user in obtaining information that is both more accurate (e.g., based on the structure's contents, digital photographs, and construction materials) and presented in a more intuitively organized fashion. In other words, a user who solely desires information regarding the construction of a first floor bathroom can quickly see the bathroom on the model and click on it to be linked to the necessary information without having to guess how to search for the information and drill down into various databases accordingly. In summary, the prior art (either alone or in combination) fails to teach or suggest the combination of providing users with a centralized electronic model and data storage system that grants users access to information limited to their respective access rights, providing a graphical user interface featuring a dimensionally accurate electronic three dimensional scaled model of the current state of a structure, providing electronic links integrated into and displayed on said dimensionally accurate model to provide selective access to information pertaining to one of the structure's contents, construction materials, and digital photographs, allowing a user to select with an input device a location on the electronic model of the structure corresponding to an actual surface on the structure to access data regarding the contents (including warranty and product

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information) and construction materials of the selected portion of said structure, and using the data regarding said structure's contents (including warranty and product information) and construction materials to formulate a bid that is conveyed to the structure. This combination of limitations is recited in claims 1, 2, 29, and 34-37; therefore, claims 1, 2, 29, and 34-37 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Matsuo et al. (JP 11-96217 A) -- Discloses a personal asset management system.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susanna M. Diaz whose telephone number is (703) 305-1337. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:


**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 [Official communications; including
After Final communications labeled
"Box AF"]

(703)746-7048 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 22202, 7th floor receptionist.


Susanna M. Diaz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3623
July 12, 2004

"EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT"

JUL 12 2004 10:07AM

KIRTON & MCCONKIE

NO. 054 P. 3/9

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please note and consider the claims in the application as identified below, with currently amended claims comprising markings in the form of a strikethrough for deletions and underlining for additions.

1. (currently amended) An electronic model and data storage system for storing, maintaining and retrieving information relating to the contents of an architectural structure, said system comprising:

a computer device comprising:

a processor; and

a memory device storing executable and associated operational data structures for processing by the processor;

a graphical user interface featuring a dimensionally accurate electronic 3-dimensional scaled model of the current state of a structure;

~~with links to data regarding the inventory and~~

~~a memory device storing executable and associated operational data structures for processing by the processor;~~

data structures having electronic links integrated into and displayed ~~on~~ as said dimensionally accurate model ~~graphical user interface~~ to provide selective access to information pertaining to one of the structure's contents, construction materials, and digital photographs, by allowing a user to select with an input device a location on the electronic model of the structure corresponding to an actual surface on the structure depicted on the graphical user interface and to access data regarding the contents and

~~construction materials of the selected portion of said structure; link to the corresponding data structures;~~

~~the data regarding the contents of said structure, further comprising warranty and product information including at least one of dates; the date of installation, terms ~~term~~ of warranty; coverage and conditions, and maintenance requirements;~~

~~an event timing program to monitor maintenance intervals and warn an owner of a structure prior to the expiration of the recommended maintenance interval that maintenance is due;~~

~~communication means to contact potential contractors after receiving authorization from the structure owner so that the contractor may access for accessing data regarding said structure's contents and construction materials the maintenance and access warranty information to formulate, bid, and bid and convey a that bid back to a structure the owners; and~~

~~wherein said data corresponding to the contents of said structure information and communication is accessible via a computer network by a user according to access rights corresponding to said user.~~

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein warranty and product information further comprises at least one of: cleaning method information methods, installer notes and ~~an~~ inventory data.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) The system ~~computer-readable data transmission signal~~ of claim 1, wherein said computer network is a global information network.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (cancel)

34. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein the data corresponding to the contents of said structure further comprises information relating to insurance coverage corresponding to at least one of said structure and said contents of said structure.

35. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein the data corresponding to the contents of said structure is represented as textual information on said electronic model.

36. (new) The system of claim 1 wherein said system is interactive.

37. (new) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

an event timing module to monitor maintenance intervals corresponding to the contents of said structure and warn a structure owner prior to the expiration of the recommended maintenance interval.